[President.]

The motion before the House is that the words "at least 24 hours earlier" be added at the end of clause (1) of Standing Order No. 7.

Has the member the leave of the House to make the motion?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I object to it, Sir.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I move that the draft amendment be referred to a Select Committee.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I second it.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I move that the Select Committee shall consist of Messrs. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad, S. Adam Sait, K. K. Thomas, the Law Officer of Government, the Chief Secretary to Government and myself.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

PRESIDENT: Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai will be the Chairman, and the Law Officer, the Convener; and the report should be submitted before the next session of the Council.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Abolition of export duty on cocoanut products.

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad cum Parur*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

> *This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the disastrous economic depression and in view of the abnormal fall in the price of cocoanut products and the difficulties experienced in maintaining cocoanut gardens from their proceeds, the export duty on cocoanut products be completely abolished till normal conditions are restored.*

Sir, in moving this resolution, I beg to point out that the grievances of the cocoanut-grower have been repeatedly brought to the notice of Government especially during the last few years. Ever since the economic depression set in, matters have reached such a crisis that any further postponement of the consideration of these grievances may not lead to happy results. In this connection, I shall quote some figures which will show the seriousness of the situation and the importance of the question. According to the Census of 1931, the total cultivated area in Travancore is 22,01,295 acres, out of which the area under cocoanut cultivation in 1107 was 6,64,899 or 32 per cent. of the total cultivated area. The Census Report also shows that nearly fifty per cent. of the total population are supported by agriculture. Out of them, 8,95,782 are engaged in agriculture; and out of these, 1,66,916

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are engaged in cocoanut cultivation. That works out to about 20 per cent. It is further seen from the Census Report that, out of 3,78,000 people engaged in industrial occupations, about 2,00,000 are engaged, directly or indirectly, in the coir industry; that works out to nearly 60 per cent. Cocoanut is extensively cultivated in this State, and is supposed to be the most important money crop of this State. All the non-official members of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee unanimously brought forward a resolution that all export duties levied purely for fiscal purposes should be abolished. That is certainly much wider in its scope than my present resolution. The resolution was thrown out on account of the official majority in that committee. The figures I have given will go to show that a very large section of our people are adversely affected by this export duty on cocoanut products. The report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee makes it clear that Travancore cannot consume all the cocoanuts that she produces. The total output of cocoanuts in this State, as we learn from that report, is 654,715,385. Assuming that a person consumes 50 cocoanuts a year, the total number consumed comes to about 250 millions leaving a balance of about 400 millions to be exported. Cocoanut is not like grain; and the whole of our production cannot be consumed. One can consume, comparatively, only a limited quantity of cocoanuts. There is over production of cocoanuts here and about two-thirds of the total production has to be exported for sale outside. The report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee also shows that the price of cocoanut has fallen terribly. At one time it was selling at Rs. 100 per thousand whereas now we get only Rs. 15.

The prices of such products are published monthly in our Government Gazettes. A reference to that published in Kanni 1109 would show that in certain areas 63 cocoanuts are sold for one rupee, which comes to 10 fanams per hundred nuts.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Has the member noted that the price published in our Gazettes varies?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

We do not see any prospect of the economic depression declining; it is only on the increase gradually. In the neghbouring State of Cochin and British India, there is no export duty levied on cocoanuts. I will be able to convince the House that it has become absolutely impossible to pull on with cocoanut cultivation any further unless Government comes in and relieves the cultivators from their serious hardships.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Since there is no export duty levied on cocoanuts in Cochin and Malabar, is the member of opinion that the cultivators in those parts are getting more price for their cocoanuts than the Travancore cultivators?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: The cultivators in Malabar and Cochin are certainly in an advantageous position.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: What is the price of cocoanuts per thousand in Cochin and Travancore?

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MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR : Rs. 15 in Travancore ; about Rs. 25 in Cochin.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Nominated*) : What does the member say about the quality of copra in Cochin and Malabar when compared to Travancore copra ?

MR. G, NARAYANA AIYAR : Travancore product is superior.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*) : Then, may I know, whether the difference in prices is due to the export duty here ?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR : Mostly that. Also, there is the inconvenience of transporting it to Cochin.

MR. M. GOVINDAN : What will be the rate of export duty on Rs. 25 worth of cocoanuts ?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR : 5 per cent. on tariff value.

MR. M. GOVINDAN : I understand from the member that the export duty levied on cocoanuts in Travancore alone does not explain for the difference between the variation in prices of cocoanuts in Cochin and Travancore. In Travancore, there is some other cause that is at the bottom of the phenomenal difference. May I know, what is the other cause ?

MR, G. NARAYANA AIYAR : A good deal of difficulties have to be experienced by Travancore cultivators in respect of transportation of copra. Again in the matter of passes also, there is much difficulty experienced by the cultivators. Then, there are incidental expenses.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : Supposing export duty is abolished, is the member of opinion that Travancore cocoanuts will fetch a better price than Rs. 15 that the member said a while ago ?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR : Since Travancore cocoanuts have established a reputation they must fetch a better price - the increase in price will be proportionate to the abolition of duty. To me it appears, the price of our cocoanuts will be at least as much as the price obtaining in the neighbouring State of Cochin.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN : Can the member enlighten the House about the price of Travancore copra in rupees, annas, pice has he any statistics on the subject ?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR : If, as I said, the export duty is abolished, Travancore copra will fetch a better price.

For selling cocoanuts, we have to take them outside Travancore. There are no appropriate markets in Travancore. Further there is overproduction. There is export duty also. Taking into account the yield per acre in Travancore and the expense of cultivation, it will be seen that the Travancore cultivator gets absolutely no profit. Generally, in Travancore, 100 trees are expected to be planted, as per revenue rules, in an area of one acre. In other words, one tree is expected to cover an area of one cent. In Cochin, tax is levied only on 80 trees on an acre whatever may be the number of trees that stand on an acre.

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: What is the rate of tax per tree?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR It is supposed to be about 3 annas. The average yield from a cocoanut tree my be fixed at 40 for the sake of argument. That is the estimate of Government probably on the assumption that these trees are generally manured with chemical manures. One gentleman who was a member of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee says that the average yield per tree will be only 15 nuts. We will accept the Government figure as the correct one for the time being and see how it works out. From 100 trees we get 4,000 nuts. As a part of mildest deduction, one fourth *i. e.* about a thousand nuts, will have to be set apart for its upkeep. The balance is only 3,000 nuts. The price of this, on the basis of the price mentioned in the Government Gazette comes to only Rs. 45. Out of it deduct tax at the average rate of 2½ chackrams per tree as per Government order which comes to about Rs. 9. There are also cases where trees are taxed more. That apart, the export duty that has to be paid on the above will come to about Rs. 10. So the total amount ...

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know whether the export duty is actually paid by the exporting merchant?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: The producer pays that.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know whether it is in that Rs. 45 you have included the export duty as well?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: The total produce comes to about 4,000 nuts; one-fourth goes to the upkeep proper. Deducting this, you get only 3,000 nuts which fetches only 45 rupees. Tax on this would come to 9 rupees according to Government rate. If a higher rate is adopted it will come to 14 rupees. Export duty of 10 rupees will have to be paid. On the whole, after deducting about 19 rupees towards expenses, the balance you get out of one acre would be about 26 rupees.

The average price that was prevailing for an acre of cocoanut garden in North Travancore was between two thousand and four thousand rupees. Any way, the minimum can be fixed at Rs. 2,000. If you calculate at 3 per cent interest on that amount, you must get at least Rs. 60 per annum. According to the above calculation, we get only Rs. 26. That is the margin of profit. Where are we to go in for the interest on the money invested if you get a margin of profit to the extent of Rs. 26 or so?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Is not a large proportion of the export duty paid by the consumer?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: Here, it is paid by the producer.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Does not the actual incidence of duty fall on the consumer?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: He also will be affected by that.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Does it not fall on the consumer unless the article is not a monopoly?

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MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: Certainly.

Thus, it can be seen that it has become absolutely impossible to maintain this cocoanut growing business. For all the cocoanut gardens there is absolutely no margin of profit left for the cultivator.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know what is the present price of a cocoanut garden in Parur?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: About Rs. 1,750.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: What will be the export duty approximately on thousand cocoanuts?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: At the rate of 5 per cent. on tariff value the duty comes to two rupees.

In this connection it is desirable to read a few lines from the report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee which are considered to be very valuable.—

One non-official member observes as follows —

"Merchants in Alleppey and Cochin were emphatic in their opinion that there is no article of export from this country which can be regarded as a monopoly. There are competitors from far and near, and substitutes for most of the articles of export are alredy in the market. Merchants of long experience agree in the view that the continuance of this duty would tend, in course of time, to the loss of our export trade. Why a duty which is not levied in the neighbouring British District of Malabar or in the Indian State of Cochin should be levied in this country was what the witnesses who appeared before the Committee wanted to know. The injury to the economic life of this country arising from the levy of duty on exports is greatly increased by the boom prices on which this duty is tariffed. To say that we levy a duty of 5 per cent. on the value of our exports and at the same time to raise to abnormal heights the tariff value for purposes of duty is not right. 'It might be worthwhile, said Sir Alfred Layton, even from the purely revenue point of view to lower duties even at the risk of losing revenue at the moment, for the sake of encouraging the general economic development of the country.' The levy of duty on our exports should, in view of the economic depression now prevailing in the country, be given up, at least, until the situation improves".

In another portion, another member observes as follows.

"Another crying need is the immediate revision of tariffs and export duties. Export-duty is now levied on about 19 groups of articles, including all our main items of produce. An export duty is a levy on production. Except in the case of monopolies it adds to the burden of the producer. In most countries it has become obsolete. In British India a low duty of 3 per cent. used to be levied on almost all articles of export, but as the principle of export duties gradually came to be recognised as unsound, by the year 1867 the list of dutiable articles was reduced from 97 to 9 and again to 3 in 1875. By 1880 the only export duty retained was a small protective duty on rice and rice flour; though since, as a war measure, a duty was levied on jute, of which India has a monopoly, on tea which has since been withdrawn, and on hides and skins for protective purposes. The witnesses examined including Messrs Chandrasekharan and Gopala Menon, Professors of Economics, are agreed in condemning export duties on local produce One of them empahatically states that.....

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Who is that one Professor?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Is it Professor Chandrasekharan?

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MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes. Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan who is now in the official benches.

> "One of them emphatically states that no civilised Government would be justified in levying export duties for purely fiscal purposes. The Indian Fiscal Commission, too, is opposed to export duties as a rule, except when necessitated by the exigencies of revenue. Our duties and taxes have never been governed by principle. They have grown, grown and multiplied haphazard. We have no monopoly of any produce, barring, fine grade coir yarn as shown in the majority Report. Neither is the State's financial position so embarrassed as to justify resort to a levy opposed to recognised principles of economics. Here the soil is taxed, the tree standing therein is taxed, and the produce is further taxed by export duty. As there are no such duties in the neighbouring States of Cochin and British India, the Travancore producer is unable to compete in the open market with his neighbours. The first orders for coir, pepper, etc. would naturally go to Cochin and Malabar, the overflow orders alone reaching Travancore."

PRESIDENT: I think I have to remind the speaker that he has exceeded the 20 minutes limit usually allowed. In view, however, of the interruptions now and again, I will allow the member another five minutes more.

Mr. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: Thank you, Sir.

I may also bring to the notice of the House another difficulty which the cocoanut producer is labouring under in the bordering taluks of the Cochin State and British India. For transport of cocoanut products, the Excise Department insists on getting passes in all cases. I am not able to understand the reason why a pass should be insisted on for transport of cocoanut products from one pakuthi to another in the same taluk even when they have not to pass though foreign territory. In my opinion, the action of the Excise Department is highly condemnable. And, I cannot find any authority in the whole Regulation or Rules to show that for carrying cocoanut produce from one pakuthi to another, a pass is necessary. It is stated that passes are issued free. Even then, the difficulty of getting a pass, going to the authorities and waiting on them creates a lot of difficulties for head loads and cart loads.

Mr. A. KUMARA PILLAI: Is it not the case with cocoanuts that have to pass through Cochin territory?

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: For transport of articles which do not even touch the territory, why should a pass be insisted on, passes beyond my understanding. It is stated that passes are issued free. No doubt about that. But to undergo all the difficulties of applying for a pass a week before, waiting on the authorities concerned to get it sanctioned – there are immense difficulties.

MR K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, I rise to second the resolution. The only question before the House is whether the export duty on copra should be abolished or not. If the honourable members occupying the Government benches will only remember the arguments that have been advanced in this and the Lower House of the Legislature, no further arguments are necessary to meet this question and they will be convinced that the export duty on copra is unsupportable

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[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

either on the principles of tariff or duty. The various committees appointed by Government have made reports which bear testimony to the fact that the levy of export duty is unsupportable. For the last two years, the cocoanut producers in our country are more or less perplexed. The immediate problem is whether they should continue to cultivate cocoanut in Travancore or they should think of some other cultivation. It is really a surprise to hear the Excise Commissioner replying, to a question whether there is a duty on Ceylon cocoanuts exported from Ceylon, that he does not know That is the kind of officer who is expected to control the cocoanut industry in the State and advise Government from time to time as to what measures ought to be taken to protect the interests of the cultivator. During the last Budget session I brought to the notice of the House and the Excise Commissioner that the Ceylon copra is being dumped into Travancore ports at the expense of the Travancore producer, cultivator, or trader and the Excise Commissioner admitted that fact. Now when the same question is put to him, he denies knowledge of it in this House. I simply ask you, Sir, whether we have stated here anything to embarrass the Government or whether we have brought unreasonable suggestions for the acceptance of the Government. Here is a real grievance experienced by the Travancore cocoanut grower. This is a fact. The officers should come to help the actual cultivators. No doubt, replies are given by Government that they are in full sympathy with the laudable objects of the non-official members and that they are doing everything to protect the cultivator, the producer of cocoanuts. It is really deplorable to see the abnormal fall in the price of cocoanuts side by side with the dumping of the Ceylon copra into our ports, and the Excise Commissioner, who is expected to advise Government from time to time as to what steps ought to be taken to safeguard the interests of the cultivator, justifying the levy of export duty. This is the question that I want to ask before the House again and again. When the Excise Commissioner is asked to say whether there is a duty in Ceylon and he denies knowledge of it, I do not know how far we can rely when Government say that they are taking as much interest to protect the cultivator, that they are doing everything possible and so on and so forth. When such a reply comes from the Government, we cannot but poopooh it. You will excuse me, Sir, when I exhibit more warmth as a speaker in this House over this vexed question. The whole country is stirred. That is the very reason why the very same question is repeatedly brought to the notice of Government for remedy. There is the Excise Commissioner's report for the year 1107 wherein he is found bemoaning the loss of revenue of the Excise Department owing to the fall of revenue realised from the dutiable articles of the cocoanut tree, but the members will note that nothing substantial has been done to improve the condition of the cocoanut grower.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: May I know from what report the member is making that observation?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I am practically quoting from the Administration Report of the Excise Department for 1107 wherein it is stated that the duty which was realised from the dutiable articles of the cocoanut tree has heavily fallen down. Does the Commissioner challenge me?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is due to revision of the tariff value towards the close of 1106.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: There may be so many reasons for that. The only question is, what is the export duty that is derived now from cocoanuts and copra exported from Travancore. It comes to rupees three lakhs. The next question is, whether in the face of the difficulties experienced by the cultivators as a whole, Government can give up that duty?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: May I point out that duty comes to about nine and a half lakhs.

MR. K P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I am only referring to the resolution about the export duty on cocoanuts including copra, etc. At least if Government abolish the export duty on cocoanuts and copra, that will go a great way to relieve the poor cocoanut cultivator. That question should be seriously considered by the Government. When the mover of the resolution was in possession of the House, he was asked whether the consumer will not be hard hit on account of the abolition of duty. He was also asked that unless Travancore is having a monopoly of the cocoanut products, whether the duty will not fall on the consumer or whether the duty has to be borne by the producer. Though practically Travancore is having a monopoly for coir yarn, etc., there is still competition from outside. In the matter of exporting copra or cocoanuts from the Alleppey Port, there is cut throat competition between the Travancore exporter and the Ceylon exporter. When we thus know that, since we are not having a monopoly, the duty falls on the producer, and when we also know that Ceylon is having a considerable advantage over us, it is all the more reason why our Government should render a helping hand to the cocoanut grower of our country who stands in need of it.

If it is the revenue side of the question, that is going to embarrass Government, I may be permitted to offer some suggestions as to how the loss of revenue can be recouped by imposing some other taxes, in the shape of taxes collected from the cocoanut tree and other materials. Sir, on going through the Administration Report of the Excise Department for 1108, you find Travancore fibre is taxed, cocoanut taxed, copra taxed and so forth. All sorts of fees are realised from cocoanuts and their products. About sixty thousand cocoanut trees are tapped per year and the tax collected is four and half lakhs of rupees. That works at the rate of four rupees per half year. I may venture a suggestion that tax may be enhanced to Rs. 5 per half year. That will bring to the coffers of Government about rupees 1·2 lakhs more.

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Then, will not the rentals of toddy shops go down?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: The Travancore Government I am sure will get more, nearly five lakhs more than last year from rentals. Even if we concede that the rentals will go down, we can expect that from the figures of last year there may not be further reduction in consumption. On a comparison between the years 1107 and 1108, I find there is a substantial increase of revenue from toddy and arrack.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know whether by abolition of duty, the rentals will be raised?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I will come to that. There is a separate figure from the rentals of toddy and arrack shops. I suggest that if we enhance the licensing fee from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 it will bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 1·2 lakhs.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: If the member's suggestion is to enhance the licensing fee, will it not affect some particular community?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I will be only glad if my friend's community is going to be benefited by that.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Is it adversely or in favour?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: In favour, certainly! By tapping sixty thousand cocoanut trees if the member's community.....

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know how the community will be benefited?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: In my opinion, by enhancing the licensing fee, members of the Ezhava community will be benefited?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Is the member aware that the Excise Commissioner's attention has been repeatedly drawn to the fact that the price which the cocoanut producer gets is the market price minus the export duty?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Yes.

If you go to Aramboly frontier you may know, that in the Excise Chowkey, a duty of two cash is realised for one cocoanut. That duty alone comes to about Rs. 5 approximately for 1,000 cocoanuts.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: What is the duty per candy of copra?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I do not know.

Therefore the simple question is that if this duty is abolished, at least on cocoanuts, will they find a ready market in other parts of British India and to that extent the Travancore producer will be benefited. This is a very simple thing which can appeal to any member. There is no profoundest question of Tariff Law or Export duty Law involved. That is the ordinary thing experienced by every man who takes cocoanuts to British India. The Excise Commissioner will not

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contradict me when I say that almost 90 per cent. of the raw cocoanuts exported from Travancore is consumed by people in British India. If that is so, the abolition of the export duty is all the more necessary.

Another point is, we are importing about twenty thousand candies of tobacco in Travancore. Of that, only three thousand are Jaffna tobacco. The duty is Rs. 135 per candy. I would advise the Travancore Government, as a bit of retaliation, to enhance that duty to Rs. 150 per candy, when it will bring into the Travancore coffers something like 31,000 rupees.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: May I know whether the burden will again fall on the consumer?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: No.

According to me, it is a luxury. I am deliberately excluding Coimbatore and Tinnevelly tobacco because they are intended for poor people. Jaffna tobacco being of a superior variety and since Ceylon is competing successfully in a spirit of retaliation, I am of opinion that a higher duty should be imposed on Jaffna tobacco.

Again, tobacco is imported into Travancore for the manufacture of beedi and other materials. I may advocate that the existing duty may be doubled. Again it may be said that it will fall on the consumer. It is pitiable indeed to see that even children aged between 7 and 8, going about the streets smoking beedi of every description. When he cannot find a morsel of food, a beedi is easily made available for him.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Travancore Government are going to get a revenue of rupees four lakhs by way of Excise duty on matches?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: On the other hand, we will be losing what we get by way of import duty.

If the Excise Commissioner is willing, he may also enhance the price of proof gallon arrack. Now the price is Rs. 5-3-0. I do not find any harm in enhancing that price to Rs. 6 at least. If the revenue side is the only side which is embarrassing Government I submit these are some of the things which the Excise Commissioner has to consider to see that the loss on account of the abolition of export duty may be made up. This method of enhancing duty as I suggested will not affect the Travancore consumer adversely.

My next point is that the officer who is expected to control customs must be a first rate person who will understand the importance of international and interstatal problems. The question of advising Government from time to time in the matter of imposition and enhancement of duty on certain articles as well as withdrawal of duties, so that the sum total of the duties imposed may be advantageous to the Travancore Government, is a material factor. Until that is done, no improvement can be seen. The Excise Commissioner, for the last two years, has been repeating his stock arguments. He says, he does not know whether there is export duty in Ceylon. That is the kind of

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[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

interest that a very responsible officer takes in this most important and vital question. The duty aspect of the mattter has to be considered from the poor man's point of view. I once more request Government to take some bold step by abolishing the export duty on cocoanuts and copra.

PRESIDENT: You have far exceeded the time limit.

Moved and seconded that export duty on cocoanut products be completely abolished till normal conditions are restored.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I beg to oppose the resolution brought forward by Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar and seconded by Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai. They have made several observations in the course of their speeches. I shall refer to them briefly after making some general observations on the question on its merits. Mr. Narayana Aiyar in the resolution now moved, gives the grounds on which he urges the abolition of export duty. There are two grounds, the first is the disastrous economic depression and the second is the abnormal fall in the price of copra. I may, at the outset, concede that the Government realise that, due to serious depression and the abnormal fall in prices of agricultural products, the cultivator is hard hit. The export duty which the cultivator was bearing without any complaint till about 2 years ago is now felt by him as rather heavy. The export duty as some of the members have pointed out is 5 per cent. on the tariff value at the rate of 48 rupees per thousand nuts.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Will the member please tell the House why a duty that has been condemned by the civilized world has become wholesome in Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I am proceeding to show that.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Before proceeding into details I wish the member will please explain the principle first so that we may follow him. It is therefore I put the question.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: A duty on cocoanut products is imposed, partly for revenue purposes and partly for affording protection to important industries in the State.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know, how the levy of export duty is a protection to the industry?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: So far as fibre and coir are concerned it is a protection to our mats and matting industries. So far as duty on copra goes it is a protection to the oil mill industry in the State.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: (*Quilon* cum *Karunagapalli*): ഇങ്ങനെ ഇതിന്റെ വിലവർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നകയറിന്റെ മറ്റുമാ ക്കുകൂടെ നഷ്ടമാകുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: So far as coir is concerned, we have a monopoly. Even if we levy a duty for affording protection to one of our important industries, it will not affect its market in foreign countries.

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MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇതുപോലെതന്നെ എണ്ണയ്ക്ക ഇക്കഴിഞ്ഞ നല്ലതുകൊല്ലമായിട്ട വെച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഡ്യൂട്ടികൊണ്ട എണ്ണവ്യവസായത്തിനു യാതൊരു അഭിവൃദ്ധിയും ഉണ്ടാക്കിട്ടില്ലെന്ന ബോദ്ധ്യമായതിനു ശേഷം ഇനിയും അതു വെച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്ന് മെമ്പർവിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The rate of protection is being gradually reduced and perhaps in course of time it will be abolished altogether. In my view, it is not yet time to take away the protection altogether.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Is it the member's opinion that the coir and mats and matting industry are in a thriving condition?

MR. C O MADHAVAN: Yes. The Government are satisfied that some relief must be afforded to the cocoanut cultivator The question is seriously engaging the attention of Government. I may inform the House that some decision will be arrived at very soon. Side by side with the question of giving relief to the cultivator, there is the question of revenue. As I said in answer to a question put by a member, the export duty on cocoanut products brings in a revenue of nearly 10 lakhs per annum to the Government.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Is it not destructive to the industries?

MR. C O. MADHAVAN; No.

MR. K. MADHVAN PILLAI: At least partially?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There is no destruction of any industry by the imposition of this duty. This duty on cocoanut products has been in existence in Travancore for a very long time. As far as records show, it was in existence 70 years back.

MR. A. N.VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇങ്ങനെ export dutyവെച്ചുകൊണ്ട ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ ഏതെങ്കിലും വ്യവസായം നശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി മെമ്പക്കറിയാമോ?

MR C. O. MADHAVAN: Not in recent times.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: Saltpeter വ്യവസായം നശിച്ചതെങ്ങിനെ എന്നറിയാമോ?

MR C O. MADHAVAN: I am not quite sure about it.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Has the member read the report of the Indian Fiscal Commission?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes. Portions of it.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Do they not discuss the question of saltpetre and do they not explain how the industry is ruined?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have said just now that no export duty could be permitted to destroy an industry.

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: I said for revenue purposes.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Here I may refer to a passage in a memorandum prepared by the late, Dewan Mr. S. Sankarasubba Aiyar in 1069, dealing with the question of export duty, this is what he has said.

> "As regards customs as a source of revenue, exports are to Travancore what imports are to British India. From the proportion—97 per cent—which the exports bear to this revenue as a whole, it is obvious that Travancore depends almost entirely on the export duty and to give up this duty would be to give up this source of income altogether as there is no means of recouping from imports. The receipts under the latter may not even cover the establishment charges".

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know from the member from which volume he is reading?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: State Manual.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether it is a Government publication and taken as an authority?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes, it may be taken as an authority.

PRESIDENT: I think that the book is published under the authority of Government.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I may point out, Sir, that the book is not published under the authority of Government.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: What was the income of the State in 1069 when the memorandum was prepared?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It was much less.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know from the member what Dewan Mr. Rama Aiyangar had to say on the particular subject?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have not got it with me.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: May I draw the member's attention to the observations of the Indian Fiscal Commission on this particular subject? What has the member to say on that?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: A point of order. Whether a member can put a question on the observations of the Indian Fiscal Commission?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: I am drawing his attention to the particular passage in the report of the Indian Fiscal Commission.

PRESIDENT: The general rule is that no quotations should be made unless the book is on the table of the House so that all members may be in a position to know what the quotation is and what relevancy it has got with regard to the discussion before the House.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It can be placed before the House.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: I am asking what he has to say to the point raised by me.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: A point of order. Whether one member can test the knowlege of another in this fashion?

PRESIDENT: I have been watching to make a ruling.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : That is a principle which is admitted on all hands. I myself have stated before the House that the duty is imposed partly for the purpose of revenue and that the duty has to be borne by the producer in Travancore. The price which the Travancore producer gets will be lower to the extent of the duty. For instance when the Cochin producer gets Rs. 20 per thousand cocoanuts, the Travancore producer will get only about Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ less, the duty on thousand cocoanuts being roughly Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$. The difference can never be Rs. 10 as mentioned by Mr. Narayana Iyer.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know from the member whether the price of tender cocoanuts has fallen?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It is not a commodity which has a market price. Only those who purchase and sell it can know whether its price has risen or fallen.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know from the member whether by giving protection to tender cocoanuts the prices could not be brought up?

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know from the member whether tender cocoanuts are exported from Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: They may be taken out in small quantities by people on the frontier but not in any appreciable quantity. I have just mentioned that the export duty is imposed partly for protection purposes. So far as the oil mill industry is concerned several members seem to doubt the necessity for retaining protection any longer. The Banking Enquiry Committee went into this question fully and has recorded its opinion thus —

> "The efficient continuance of the oil industry is therefore so clearly in the interests of national economic safety that greater consideration has to be given to it."

That is the opinion recently recorded by the Banking Enquiry Committee. The existence of cocoanut oil industry is very essential for keeping up the price of cocoanuts and copra in Travancore. In the absence of cocoanut oil industry all the copra may have to be sent out of Travancore to Cochin and other places and the exporters may have to be more or less at the mercy of the Cochin mill-owner. Both in the interests of the general producer and the mill-owner some margin of protection is necessary for enabling him to carry on his business.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇവിടത്തെ Cocoanut Oil Mills നെ മറ്റ എണ്ണവ്യവസായങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം മത്സരിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നുണ്ടോ? അതായത് ഇവിടത്തെ എണ്ണവ്യവസായത്തെ മറ്റുതരം എണ്ണവ്യവസായംതോല്പിക്കാറില്ലേ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It is on account of the competition of other oils that the price of cocoanuts has gone down so much.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Is the member in a position to state what percentage of Ceylon cocoanuts were used by the Alleppey mill owners when compared with the Travancore cocoanuts during the last year 1108?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Ceylon copra came to Travncore only in the year 1108. Ceylon copra was not coming into Travancore before that. The import has completely stopped during the year 1109. In 1108 about 50,000 cwts of copra have been imported to Travancore.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Not in appreciable quantities?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: No.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: സിലോൺ കൊപ്രാ ഇവിടെ വരുന്നതു തിരുവിതാംകൂർ കൊപ്രായുടെവിലയെ ബാധിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

MR. C. O MADHAVAN: Certainly. Ceylon copra is imported to Bombay, Karachi and other places. These places are open freely to Ceylon copra and the prices in Travancore will certainly be affected thereby.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: May I know from the member how the import of Ceylon copra is stopped this year?

MR. C. O MADHAVAN: During 1108, a concession had been allowed in favour of Ceylon copra. The Ceylon copra imported into Travancore on payment of duty was permitted to be exported out of Travancore in the shape of oil and punnac free of duty. This concession has been withdrawn. Ceylon copra is still coming in large quantities to Cochin and other places.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know from the member whether in the interest of the oil mills this protection is justifiable?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Both in the interests of the oil mill industry as well as the general producer, some margin of protection for oil may be kept on for some time more till Alleppey becomes a market for exporting oil directly.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know from the member whether the oils are directly exported to Cochin market from where they are distributed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Direct export from Alleppey is now steadily increasing. Till about five years back, there was very little of oil exported directly from Alleppey.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: In view of that answer, how does the Excise Commissioner assert that this protection is necessary when the Cochin mill-owner can undersell the oil extracted from cocoanuts which he gets directly exported from Ceylon and imported to Cochin?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: For how long has the oil mill industry been in enjoyment of protection?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: In the tariff revision of 1082, the margin of protection is to be seen.

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MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI : Sir, a point of order. No reply is given to Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai' question. That ought to be ruled out.

PRESIDENT : The question and answer should settle themselves.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI : As regards coir and yarn, Sir, I am putting these questions which have perfect relevancy and the answer to these questions will give a fund of information.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI : May I know from the member whether there is duty realised for all cocoanut products exported from the Alleppey port ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : There is duty.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI : May I know from the member what will be the transport or freight charges for taking produce of cocoanuts from the Alleppey port to the Cochin port?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : It is not the transport charges alone. There are several other items of expenditure.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI : Does the Excise Commissioner say that by this means of protection the oil mil-owners of Alleppey will be able to compete successfully with other mill-owners ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Yes. They are able to compete successfully with the Cochin mill-owner.

Strenuous efforts are now being made in some quarters to see that mats and mattings manufactured in India are shut out of American and Continental markets. At one time, the mats and mattings industry was in a very flourishing condition in western countries. But since the development of the industry in India, the western countries have been steadily losing their own markets for mats and mattings. That aspect of the question is fully discussed in the report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, and for want of time, I do not wish to read any extract therefrom. We have got the raw materials, namely, coir yarn and coir fibre and we have also got cheap labour. They have on the other hand got the markets for the sale of mats and mattings, besides skilled labour. By the imposition of an export duty upon coir yarn and fibre, the raw materials required for the mats and mattings industry, we put a higher value upon those articles when they reach the European or American manufacturers. That means a considerable enhancement in the value of articles manufactured in western countries which enables our manufacturers to compete successfully in western markets and capture the same. The abolition of export duty on coir yarn and fibre is nothing less than cutting our own throat by supplying cheap raw materials to our rivals to make it possible for them to oust us from the markets which we have captured. The House can clearly see from this what the consequences of the abolition of export duty on coir yarn and fibre will be.

There is no doubt that the present rate of duty on some of the cocoanut products sits heavily upon the people. That is due to the abnormal fall in the prices of those commodities which are at present

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far lower than the tariff values. The remedy for this lies not in the total abolition of the export duty on these articles. In seeking a remedy for this difficulty, we should not overlook other important considerations, such as the question of revenue and the necessity for affording protection to important industries in the State. The Government fully realise the necessity for giving relief to the cocoanut cultivator in Travancore. Without prejudice to the other important interests involved, the Government are seriously thinking of lightening the burden of the people by a suitable revision of the tariff valuation. I would therefore appeal to the House to leave the decision of this very important question unfettered in the hands of the Government, trusting that the Government will do what is necessary and most suitable for safeguarding all the interests involved.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: May I know from the Member whether he can assure us that we are not losing the monopoly of coir yarn?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes. We are not losing the monopoly.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: May I know from the member whether we are having a monopoly of coir yarn?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: So far as the fine variety of yarn is concerned, we are having a monopoly.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: There was an entertainment lecture in America on the existence of God. Ten lectures have been over and at the end of the series of lectures, a man got up and asked whether the lecturer could prove the existence of God though he did not doubt it. That is the same feeling which I have since hearing the most convincing speech of my aimable friend who has become famous by his references to the Ottava Conference. Sir, it is a matter, I do not want to be drawn to the intricacies of economics on public finance, but I believe that producers, manufacturers, merchants, and chambers of commerce are all agreed with the fact that the export duty must go. And I can understand that the Government also feel that it must go, but the difficulty is that they cannot find funds. Now the art of Government is rather a difficult matter. It is not at any rate in a position to meet emergency. They have to seek opportunities of improving public finance and try to tap fresh sources of income. That is the difficulty. But it is a matter of making a budget, which is not so difficult as that of the French Budget or even as that of Michado, and I believe that the Financial Secretary and the Excise Commissioner would rather work hard, *read more literature on the subject* and try to find some fresh taxation, if they do not obligingly, I do not want to say anything unfavourable, if they do not find themselves equal to the situation. Therefore, my appeal to this House is, and I appeal to the Government also, that they must make a sacrifice of assisting the public by abolishing the export duty this time. The Travancore Chamber

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of Commerce, the Alleppey Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial and Agricultural Congress at Mavelikara and Onattukara, all have passed resolutions unanimously recommending the abolition of the export duties on cocoanut and cocoanut products.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: May I know from the member what he has to say with regard to the fine yarn about which the Excise Commissioner has been speaking? Suppose, we have got a monopoly on which we impose a duty, would it not be killing our mats and matting industry?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: May I know whether the member is referring to the Excise Commissioner's yarn or the yarn produced from the palmyra? Therefore, in conclusion, with all the emphasis that I can command, I appeal to the Government, to accept the resolution brought forward before the House which has the support of the whole country behind it and see that the export duty on cocoanuts and other products is gone.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: May I know from the member whether he is supporting the resolution with regard to the cocoanut products as a whole, that is copra and yarn *also* or whether he is confining himself to copra?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: I support the whole resolution.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Then my question with regard to yarn remains unanswered.

PRESIDENT: I believe that coir does not form part of the cocoanut products. Does the member feel that we have got a monopoly of fine yarn?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: No, Sir.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: I have heard the authorities on industries say that Travancore produces the best yarn available If that is so, if we are also manufacturing mats and mattings, and if England, America and other places are purchasing our fine yarn, and trying to produce mats and mattings and kill our mats and mattings.....

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN: A point of order, Sir. The member is making a speech.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Is it not suitable if we impose a duty on fine yarn?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: The question has been so long, I cannot understand it, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Yes, I too have been trying to find out where it began and where it ended.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I rise to support the motion whole-heartedly. Depression and how to tide over it is the burning problem of the day which engages the absorbing attention of

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every patriotic citizen in the country. In spite of the official recognition of this gloomy situation made so early as in 1931 in the Census Report and reiterated in the recent resolve of His Highness the Maharaja and the Queen Mother who have been graciously pleased to announce that they were not going outside the State for summer resort on account of the present economic depression, it is heart-rending to note that our Government do not seem to take any adequate steps to alleviate the growing misery and the appalling poverty of the vast masses of the people. The rosy picture used to be painted of this beautiful country by those who had the occasion to visit her, has now been blurred by the wave of economic depression. Depression has considerably affected the economic condition and the standard of life of our people and has greatly aggravated their misery. The economic depression which commenced towards the close of 1929 has now proved to be very acute and even after its sway for well-neigh 5 years, we do not find any sign of any abatement in its severity. The situation that is created by the present depression has stimulated the non-official members of both Chambers of the Legislature to action and to meet under this very roof to concert measures and to grapple with the problems of the day and, Sir, you may, by this time, be aware that they have adopted certain resolutions for discussion in this Chamber as well as in the House below. Some of these resolutions seem to have served as an eye-opener to our Government. The Dewan immediately held a conference of the officials at Bhaktivilas but unfortunately they did not meet there to consider the problem of rendering relief to the people really groaning under the weight of economic depression, or of reducing the expenditure on account of salaries and pensions, but their attention, as the report goes, was solely concentrated upon the one question—the all-important question so far as Government are concerned, *viz.*, how to increase the revenue so as to meet the ever growing demands on the treasury.

PRESIDENT: The report in the newspapers may not be quoted as authority.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: From the report which appeared in the columns of the Hindu and other newspapers.....

PRESIDENT: That is a newspaper. I think no report of the public press will be admitted here.

MR M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: The great cause of the economic depression, so far as our State is concerned, is the heavy fall in the price of cocoanut products, not to speak of the heavy slump in the rubber and pepper markets. The cocoanut palm which was hitherto known as the "*Kalpavriksham*" of Kerala is no longer that. As the result of this decline in the price of cocoanut products there has been a complete dislocation of business in the country. The various financial commitments undertaken by the people during the days when cocoanut products were selling high, they are no longer able to continue on account of the extraordinary fall in the price of such commodities. At

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present there is absolutely no margin of profit for the cultivators,so much so that we find very little attempt being made to improve the industry. Hence both in quality and quantity the cocoanut industry has deteriorated and suffered considerably. The fall in the price of cocoanut products has been due to several causes ; the chief among them being the large scale dumping of cocoanut from Ceylon. The needs of the world including those of British India were being largely met by Travancore, Cochin, Malabar, Mysore and Ceylon but of late Ceylon has by successful underselling captured the world markets and is dumping cocoanuts even into our midst. This, she has been able to do because of the various reductions systematically carried on from time to time by the British Government in the tariff rates and also in the import duty on cocoanut products. Then again, due to the comparative cheapness of labour and to the absence of land tax Ceylon is having cheap and large scale production. Two things we have to do immediately in order that we may survive in this competition with Ceylon. The first thing is to remove the export duty on cocoanut products altogether. This the Travancore Darbar can do without the sanction of the Imperial Government. Such a step is sure to promote the interests of the local cultivators by raising the price of cocoanuts by a couple of few rupees. Besides doing this we must also press upon the attention of the Government of India the imminent necessity for raising both the tariff value and the import duty on cocoanut products in such a manner and to such an extent as to give adequate support and protection to our cocoanut industry. What I understand from the report published by the Travancore Chamber of Commerce is that the British Government have resorted to the reduction of the tariff value and import duty on cocoanut products as a measure of conciliation or concession to the Ceylon cultivators who in their turn have agreed to oblige the Ahamedabad mill-owners by purchasing their mill clothes. We are, indeed, sorry that the Government of India should have thus betrayed us and sacrificed our vital interests just to please or benefit a few mill-owners. As a matter of fact during 1932 Kerala, including Travancore, Malabar and Cochin, imported through sea alone more than 126 lakhs worth of mill clothes, whereas the Island of Ceylon consumed in 1932 only 26 lakhs and in 1933 Rs. 21 lakhs worth of cotton mill goods. If the Indian mill-owners were really affraid of a boycott of their cotton piece goods by Ceylon, just imagine for a moment what would be their plight and the magnitude of the loss that may result to them by a systematic and organized boycott of their mill clothes by the whole of Kerala. If the Government of India do not make themselves keenly alive to their sense of responsibility in a matter of such paramount importance like this, I make bold to say that our people will be perfectly justified as a measure of self protection or preservation, if not as an act of retaliation, in organizing even a boycott of the Indian cotton manufactured goods and also Jaffna tobacco Since the price of cocoanut products have now gone down by about 50 per cent. it will not be too much to demand a corresponding and proportionate reduction in the land tax. It would be certainly unethical and highly immoral to

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take from the people more than what they actually get out of their lands.

It may then be contended and that most rightly too, that the proposed abolition of export duty on cocoanut products would inevitably bring about a reduction in the treasury receipts by 9 or 10 lakhs of rupees a year and the remission of a 50 per cent. of the land tax would likewise cause a fall of about 16 lakhs of rupees in the State revenue. Representatives of the people as we are, it is equally our duty to suggest means to get over such a deficit. It is in this spirit that at the conference held by us in this very hall we formulated certain concrete proposals and placed them before Government for their acceptance. The chief means to get over this financial difficulties is, as I said yesterday, to abolish all the unnecessary posts in our public service and to reduce the fat salaries, allowances and huge pensions disbursed from the public treasury. Then again the Assembly and this Council have just now passed the Matches Excise Duty Bill. From this source our Government expect a revenue of 3 to 4 lakhs of rupees every year. In view of these circumstances I ask you, Sir, in all earnestness, whether it will not be possible for the Government to abolish the export duty on cocoanut products altogether. With these few words I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 1-45 of the clock.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-5 P. M. and reassembled at 1-45 P. M., Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, one of the panel of Chairmen, presiding.

NEW MEMBER.

MR. M. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla cum Pattanamtitta*): took the oath of office and signed the rolls.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

CHAIRMAN: The House will resume the discussion on the resolution.

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: സർ; മിസ്റ്റർ നാരായണ അയ്യർ ഇവിടെ ഹാജരാക്കിയ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ഹാർട്ടായി പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. കൊപ്രായുടേയും അതു പോലെ തെങ്ങിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടുന്ന മറ്റു സാധനങ്ങളുടേയും താഴ്ച്ച വിലയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അസംബ്ലിയിലും ഇതിനു മുൻപു നടന്ന പഴയ കൌൺസിലുകളിലും ധാരാളം വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളും നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇന്ന് ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ആകർഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഇതു സർവ്വപ്രധാനമായ മറ്റൊരു സംഗതിയും ഉണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു പ്രശ്നത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഇത്ര വലിയ വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടത്തേണ്ടിവരുമെ

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